

LIFE-BOAT WAR BULLETIN No. 13.

SEPTEMBER 1943.

FOUR YEARS OF WAR.

In four years of war our life-boats have rescued 5288 lives. They have rescued more lives in these four years of war than in the last fifteen years of peace. They have rescued 25 lives every week.

Life-boatmen have been awarded 177 medals for gallantry by the Institution. They have also won four British Empire Medals, two Distinguished Service Medals and one George Medal.

Seven life-boatmen have lost their lives on service.

THE DUCHESS OF KENT.

The Duchess of Kent, the new President of the Institution, was anxious to meet as many as possible of those who organise and carry on its work, and after the annual meeting on 8th. July a reception was held at the Savoy Hotel. At this reception the Duchess met the Committee of Management, the Central London Women's Committee, the Committee of the City of London Branch, Honorary Life-Governors of the Institution and its principal officials. The Duchess was welcomed by Sir Godfrey Baring, Bt., chairman of the Institution, and she made a short speech in which she said:

"I look forward after the war to meeting both the members of the Institution and the crews of the boats from many parts of the country, and to thanking them personally for their support, and their courageous deeds of mercy in these critical years. Meanwhile, until this is possible, I would like to send my congratulations and good wishes to the crews, and my sincere thanks to all our supporters.

FINANCE IN 1942.: EXPENDITURE.

Expenditure in 1942 was £291,486. That was £12,261 more than in 1941, but much less than in a year of peace. The reason is that while in the last year of peace 16 new motor life-boats were sent to the coast, last year not one - out of six being built - could be completed. But though much less was spent on building, £67,677 was spent in rewards, pensions and other payments to crews and launchers.

FINANCE IN 1942: INCOME.

Each year of the war the Institution's income has been higher than ever before. Last year it was £495,775. The money that, for the moment, the Institution is able to put by will be spent, when the war is over, on building the boats which cannot be built now. On these the Institution will have to spend at least half a million pounds.

FROM THE FIGHTING SERVICES.

The fighting services have given as never before. Last year they gave £19,385. The Air Force gave eleven times as much as in the last year of peace; the Navy twelve times as much; the Army twenty-one times as much.

TWO MORE LIFE-BOATS REQUISITIONED.

In 1940 the fast motor life-boat at Dover was taken over by the Admiralty to be used in rescuing airmen brought down in the sea. The motor life-boat at Plymouth has now been taken over by the Ministry of War Transport, and

the Aberdeen No. 2 motor life-boat by the Air Ministry, both for special life-saving duties. They have been replaced by life-boats from the Institution's reserve fleet.

M.B.E. FOR SCOTTISH HONORARY SECRETARY.

In the Birthday Honours Mr. George Norrie Craighead was made a Member of the Order of the British Empire for his work as honorary secretary of the life-boat station at Peterhead, Aberdeenshire. He is now serving in the R.A.F., and his wife is carrying on his work as honorary secretary.

HONOURS FOR ROTHERHAM BRANCH

Alderman John Dickinson, J.P., who has been chairman of the Rotherham Branch of the Institution for very many years, was made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire in the New Year's Honours, and in June was made an Honorary Freeman of Rotherham.

B. E. M. FOR HOYLAKE LIFE-BOATMAN.

Sidney Triggs, a member of the life-boat crew at Hoylake, and now a leading-torpedoman in the Navy, has been awarded the British Empire Medal. He is one of seven brothers of whom three are in the Navy; one is about to enter the Navy; two are in the Merchant Service; and one has lost his life in the Merchant Service.

FROM THE CANADIAN RED CROSS

The Institution has received a cheque for £55.18.6. from the Canadian Red Cross Society, which has decided to make a monthly subscription of this amount "in recognition of the great war work done by the Institution from which we are assured many Canadian seamen benefit, in addition to its wonderful peace time efforts". Since the outbreak of war life-boats of the Institution have been launched to the help of nine Canadian vessels in distress, have rescued 51 lives from them, and have landed another 20, besides helping to save three of the vessels.

SOLDIERS' GRATITUDE.

A reader in "The Folkestone Herald", who watched collectors on life-boat flag day, said: "I noticed that not one single service man passed without buying an emblem, and in at least three instances I heard soldiers tell sellers they had themselves been saved by life-boats."

83 YEARS OF GIFTS.

The Institution has received his annual subscription from a subscriber who has contributed to it since his father died 25 years ago. The father, in turn, had contributed since his father died in 1881, and the books of the Institution show that this first subscriber, the grandfather of the present one, first contributed in 1860.

WHEELBARROW INSTEAD OF CAR.

The chairman of Rickmansworth and Croxley Green branch writes about her flag day: "We had beautiful weather. The sellers were all very keen. The result, £132, is more than last year. My wheelbarrow came in very useful in delivering the boats to outlying district, as we could not get a taxi or use our own car. It was all good fun".